

Occupational Outlook Handbook Activity/Report

For hundreds of different types of jobs—such as teacher, lawyer, and nurse—the Occupational Outlook Handbook tells you:

- ✓ the training and education needed
- ✓ earnings
- ✓ expected job prospects
- ✓ what workers do on the job
- ✓ working conditions

In addition, the Handbook gives you job search tips, links to information about the job market in each State, and more.

Go to: <http://www.bls.gov/oco/>

1. Take a few minutes and browse around this web site. Take notice of how it is set up, the different links and the information on this page.
2. Find the box that says “Ways to use the Occupational Outlook Handbook site”
3. Think about a job that really interests you, for example *teaching*, and then search for it using one of the three methods listed in this box. For this example, I am going to click on the “T” for *teaching*.
4. Once you find the job you are looking for, a new page will give you information about the job (a description), training required, average salary earned and so on. For example, I am looking at a page called “Teachers – Preschool, Kindergarten, Elementary, Middle, and Secondary”
5. Read through this page and record the following information in your notebook or journal:
 - a. The “Significant Points”
 - b. Five words or short phrases to describe the “Nature of the Work”
 - c. The type(s) of training it takes to do the job (i.e. a teacher needs at least 4 years of college and a teaching license)
 - d. Skim through the “Employment” & “Job Outlook” sections, and answer whether or not the job you researched is in high demand. The “Projections Data” matrix can help you figure this out.
 - e. Now look at the “Earnings” section. How much did people in this job typically make right out of training (the first year on the job)? What are the *ranges* in salary in the median, lowest and top percentages?
 - f. Finally, play around in the “Latest Wage Information” box. Click on the different links and see if you can find out how much someone in your chosen career would make in six different states. For example, I would look up how much middle school teachers would make in six different states. Write the name of the state and the salaries down in your notebook.

Your teacher may ask you to spend more time on this web site and prepare an actual report to share with your class. Keep detailed notes! And remember, you can click on the other links provided throughout this web site to help you find more information about the job you chose to research.